



News Release

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City, Parks and Recreation Receive Gold Leaf Award

The City of Columbia and Columbia Parks and Recreation have been awarded the 2008 Gold Leaf Award from the Midwestern Chapter - International Society of Arboriculture (ISA). The award was made in honor of the landscape and tree planting project completed at Phase II of Flat Branch Park.

According to ISA, Flat Branch Park was chosen for this award because of its focus on "environmental issues such as stormwater runoff, water quality, and stream way protection while at the same time beautifying an urban area using native plant species."

Parks and Recreation's horticulture staff designed the landscaping at the park to complement the recreational features and to buffer storm water runoff. Highlights at the park include a rain garden, landscape plantings, irrigated turf areas, and a stone amphitheater.

Staff and citizen volunteers with C.A.R.P. (Columbia Aquatic Restoration Project) planted 90 trees and more than 2,500 shrubs, grasses and perennial plants within the park's landscape beds, rain garden and riparian areas.

The award is given annually to individuals, organizations and/or municipalities that have made significant contributions through landscaping which enhances environmental protection, conservation and beautification.

For more information, call Parks and Recreation at 874-7460.